

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6856

BILL NUMBER: SB 287

DATE PREPARED: Jan 31, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Jan 29, 2001

SUBJECT: Abandoned Infants.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a parent of an abandoned infant is not required to be notified of custody hearings if a court finds that efforts to locate the parents or reunify the family are not in the infant's best interests. The bill requires a local child protective service that takes custody of an infant to contact the Missing Persons Clearing House to determine if the infant has been reported missing. It also provides that, in custody hearings concerning an abandoned infant left with an emergency medical services provider, the emergency medical services provider is not required to be notified of custody proceedings.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill requires a local child protective service that takes custody of an abandoned infant to contact the Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children, (*administered by the Indiana State Police*) to determine if the infant has been reported missing. The Clearinghouse may be accessed via a toll-free telephone number.

The ultimate impact of the bill will be determined by the number of infants that are abandoned. The Division of Family and Children estimates that it provides assistance to 60 abandoned infants each year.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The provision regarding parental notification of custody hearings for abandoned infants is expected to have a minimal impact on courts with juvenile jurisdiction and local offices of the Division of Family and Children. This provision may decrease the length of time necessary to finalize an adoption of an abandoned infant.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that the emergency services provider with whom an abandoned infant was left, be notified of custody hearings. This provision relieves the local courts of an administrative

duty.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: The Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family and Children.

Local Agencies Affected: Local courts with juvenile jurisdictions.

Information Sources: